



Legal Services Committee  
September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Amy Smith	HCDVCC
Rebecca Councill	HCDVCC
Libby Hasse	Tahirih Justice Center
Deborah Alexis	HCDVCC
Jessica Rushing	HCDVCC
Stefanie Hayes	HCDVCC
Thecia Jenkins	HCDVCC
Norma Martinez	HCDVCC
Jackie Guerra	HAWC
Celina Wells	KCM
Alexia Rauen	Advocates for Immigrant Survivors
Alejandra Alvarado	HCDVCC

Amy Smith opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

Amy Smith gave an update on the success of the Criminal Justice Training. There were 52 people in attendance, and it was well received. Jackie mentioned that it should be part of all legal advocates training. Discussion was had around making this an annual training. Also, there was discussion about having a CJ 102 to take what was learned and incorporate into advocates jobs. The November meeting will focus on crafting this training for some time after the first of the year.

Deborah Alexis shared the results of the P.O. Survey she conducted. She received 45 responses. 42 of the 45 who responded wanted a P.O. 101 training. The Committee also discussed the need for updates on the changes that went into effect and the possible ramifications of the Rahimi decision. Judge Curvey is now stipulating that respondents cannot go within one mile of the applicant with a gun. Deborah encouraged everyone to spend some time observing in P.O. Court. Wednesdays and Thursdays are DVD days, and the other days are for private attorneys, community organizations and those representing themselves.

Amy Smith mentioned that the mandated Protective Order forms were approved by the Texas Supreme Court on August 25<sup>th</sup>. They left in the prohibited guns. The forms cover all PO's including MOEP to Permanent PO's. You can download the forms from the Texas Supreme Court website.

Deborah also mentioned HB1732 that is now the law which allows a survivor to be taken off of the abuser's cellphone plan with a Protective Order. This has to be mentioned in the actual P.O. and TCFV has templates for this.

Celina Wells discussed that the DVD at the D.A.'s Office lost funding for their Cultural Outreach Project (COP) so they will no longer be going out to the sites around the County. Everyone will now have to go Downtown to start the P.O. process. She also announced their Annual Silent Witness Event will be on October 26<sup>th</sup>. All are invited, just please RSVP.

Alexia Rauen announced they are still looking for research participants. She is sending the information to Rebecca to put in HCDVCC's newsletter.

Libby Hasse said Tahirih is now taking on new clients. They are also looking for a staff attorney.

Jackie Guerra announced HAWC is hiring a CPS advocate and a Legal Advocate.

Rebecca Council announced that if anyone has anything they would like to add to our newsletter like, trainings, job postings or even articles to please send them to her at [rebeccacouncil@hcdvcc.org](mailto:rebeccacouncil@hcdvcc.org)

Our next meeting will be on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 via ZOOM.

Meeting adjourned.